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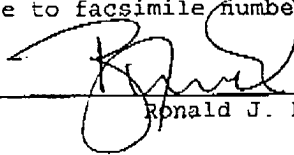
FEB 23 2009

PATENT
NON-FINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/521,439 Confirmation No. 9055
Applicant : Michio MINESHIMA et al.
Filed : January 14, 2005
TC/A.U. : 3763
Examiner : Christopher Koharski
Dkt. No. : NPR-159
Cust. No. : 20374

I hereby certify that this paper is being
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Ronald J. Kubovcik

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 22, 2008

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 23, 2009

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2008. A petition for a three-month extension of the period for responding to the Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the application as directed below and consider the remarks that follow.

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